

OBSERVATIONS ON *APATURA IRIS* L. — The encounters of J. E. Green (*Ent. Rec.* 91: 195 (1979)) with this species recall a similar experience in 1978. I had suggested to my son, David, that we should "go and look for Purple Emperors". Since the journey involved was only some 20 miles we risked the weather becoming worse than it was at the time, and arrived in what could charitably have been called unpropitious conditions.

Despite only a fitful glimpse of sun, walking up the main ride we saw *iris* descend in front of us, and a careful approach revealed it on a dry fox-dropping. It too, wandered around, probing the ground with its tongue, and totally unworried was photographed from 2 feet range. Thinking it might be thirsty, I licked my finger and placed it alongside His Majesty, who promptly climbed aboard and was photographed by David. Fingers and cameras were then exchanged for a repeat operation. It was we, in this instance, who gave up first and went away. — A. J. SHOWLER, 12 Wedgwood Drive, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks.

*THERA JUNIPERATA* L.: JUNIPER CARPET IN WARWICKSHIRE. — With reference to R. G. Warren's note (1979, *Ent. Rec.*, 91: 142) on *Thera juniperata* L. in this county, the following additional records may be of interest. On 20th October 1975, several of these moths were found on farm buildings at Marton, between Leamington Spa and Rugby, by the farmer, Mr. Graham Robson, who invited me over to confirm his identification. We traced the probable foodplant — two species of dwarf juniper on the farmhouse lawn which came from a Rugby nursery. In October 1978 we found the insect in profusion and two of the prostrate form of juniper were found to be in poor condition as a result of the depredations of the larvae — the bushes have since died.

On the 14th October 1977, one was taken at a street lamp at Bilton, a district of Rugby within a half-mile of the above-mentioned nursery. In October 1978, Mr. Andrew Gardner recorded two in his light-trap at Charlecote, and a third at nearby Thelsford. *Juniperata* occurs in a list of 232 species recorded from Hartshill Hayes, Atherstone (near Nuneaton) by Mr. R. J. Thomas between 1975 and 1979. Finally, a dead imago was found in Mr. Eric Sharman's house at Lillington, Leamington Spa, in mid-October 1979. The Marton, Charlecote, and Leamington specimens were all of the larger Southern form. It seems very likely that the nurseryman must be a highly suspect, albeit unwitting, agent of *juniperata*'s wider distribution. — ROGER SMITH, Warwickshire Lepidoptera Survey, c/o Warwickshire County Museum, Market Square, Warwick.

THE JUNIPER CARPET: *THERA JUNIPERATA* L. IN BEDFORDSHIRE. — On the evening of 12th October 1979 a single specimen of this moth was obtained by D. V. Manning from his outside porch light at Sharnbrook, Bedfordshire. The identity of this species being subsequently confirmed by Ian Woiwood of Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden. As the

Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) was last recorded in Bedfordshire in 1889 (Bedfordshire Plant Atlas — Dr. J. G. Dony) this moth must be feeding on either a species of Juniper grown in gardens, or on Cupressus. This latter remark would fit in with the article by R. G. Warren (1979, *Ent. Rec.*, **91**: 142). This is the first county record for this species from Bedfordshire. — V. W. ARNOLD, Moth Recorder for the Bedfordshire Natural History Society, 96 St. Augustine Avenue, Luton, Beds.

FOODPLANTS OF TYRIA JACOBÆAE L. (CINNABAR). — I was interested to read Mr. Jackson's note concerning this subject (*Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* **91**: 139). It reminded me that I was present at a field meeting at Bricket Wood, Herts. in 1940 when we found quite a large colony of this moth feeding on Coltsfoot. The matter was recorded by the leader of the expedition, the late R. B. Benson (*Entomologist*, **73**: 236). I do not think any of the larvae were taken to establish their viability to maturity on the unusual foodplant. However, Benson records that coltsfoot is given as a substitute foodplant for larvae in captivity by A. G. Scorer in his familiar 'Log Book'. — DR. NEVILLE L. BIRKETT, Kendal Wood, New Hutton, Cumbria.

THE CLOAKED PUG (*EUPITHECIA ABIETARIA* GOEZE): FURTHER RECORDS. — Further to the Note on this moth (in *Ent. Rec.*, **91**: 220), I can cite four more records of its occurrence since the war. (1) Oatlands, Surrey, one in a light trap, July 8th 1952 (R. F. Bretherton, List of Macrolepidoptera and Pyralidae of North-west Surrey, *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.*, **1955**: 138). (2) Streatham, ♀ on a fence, June 15th 1957, P. A. Cordell (L. K. & K. G. W. Evans, A Survey of the Macrolepidoptera of Croydon and North-east Surrey, *Proc. Croydon Nat. Hist. Sci. Soc.*, **XIV**: 322. (3) Mitcheldean, Glos., one taken by M. J. Leech, July 6th 1979 (M. J. Leech *pers. comm.*). (4) Birnam, Perthshire, ♀ in light trap, July 22nd 1979 (D. Coates *pers. comm.*). — J. M. CHALMERS-HUNT.

DEPRESSARIA EMERITELLA STAINTON (LEP.: OECOPHORIDAE). — Some time ago a Dutch collector showed me a specimen of this conspicuous *Depressaria* caught in Dutch Limburg. The discovery of this new addition to the fauna of the Netherlands necessitated a perusal of the literature. I shall only quote some details which may be of interest to British lepidopterists.

Stainton named the species in 1849 (*Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.*, **5**: 167). At that time no British captures of *emeritella* were known. In 1861 he amply discussed the species and gave coloured figures of moth and caterpillar (*Nat. Hist. Tineina*, **6**: 230-239, pl. 7). He wrote that the caterpillar can be found at the end of June and the beginning of July on *Tanacetum vulgare* L. (Tansy), some leaves of which it draws together. He also stated that one specimen had been taken in England, but that the locality was not known. From this it is clear that Stainton could not have found the caterpillar himself. Although he did not exactly say so he must have had the knowledge of the biology from the senator C. H. G. von Heyden, the only